Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-3214

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair Rosa DeLauro and Ranking Kay Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Fostering Communication Across School and Community for Students with Special Needs and Their Families project for fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Birch Family Services, Inc. located at 104 West 29th Street, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10001.

The funding would be used to enroll and train its education staff in the Picture Exchange Communication System, which is a communication system designed for nonverbal children and adults. Receiving this training would enable them to better support the children and youth they work with by being better able to understand their needs and desires, and to train parents and caregivers in the method as well.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Member of Congress